

## **KY ARTS COUNCIL: LONG-RANGE PLANNING MEETING**

**Paducah – October 29, 2002**

**Hosted by Maiden Alley Cinema**

**Facilitated by Constance Alexander**

**Informal Section:** Participants signed in, filled out name tags and were invited to select items from the resource table. An array of snacks and beverages was available.

**Formal Welcome:** As specified in the agenda, appropriate remarks were presented by Lori Barrett and Dan Strauss, representing the KAC.

**Introductions:** As specified on the agenda, participants were asked to introduce themselves; identify organizational affiliation, if any; and give a brief overview of their individual/organizational interests in the arts. A summary of those interests is listed below:

- Interested in setting up a folk arts school; e.g., Penland.
- Part of artists' relocation program. Interested in education. Impressed with pool of talent here.
- In process of building a studio/gallery.
- Would like to develop workshops for local artists.
- Interested in using theater and education as a means of teaching other subjects.
- Wants to see more programs for kids that encourage them to use their creative abilities. Concerned about budget cuts in the arts.
- Interested in "all of it."
- Music teacher and a art teacher both mentioned interests in all the arts and emphasized their importance in the schools.
- "I want to get as involved as I can."
- Interested in inviting local artists into my classroom.
- MSU gallery director, artists/educator both interested in learning more through this meeting.
- Wants to show support for the arts in Ky
- Interested in workshops
- Needs to be more emphasis on publicity for arts/artists of western Ky.
- Came to meeting to find out what's going on, especially in area of folk arts.
- Interested in seeing cooperation between Alliance for the Arts, arts organizations and new artists.
- Representing PAPA Gallery. Interested in meeting.
- Would like to see Duke/Long building as a folk arts school.
- Interested in all types of education and community outreach.
- Would like to work more closely with arts organizations and the community for downtown revitalization.
- Interested in whatever can be brought in to the schools. Mentioned band boosters in Ballard County. Need more middle and high school after school classes in the arts.
- Interested in writing/poetry.

- Looking for promotion of the arts as a means for improving quality of life.
- Need to catch kids early in the art. Provide lots of opportunities for them to get involved. Works in drama associated with flood wall murals and cemetery.
- Interested in buying/selling fine art work.
- Wants to see how Yeiser Arts Center fits into KAC goals. Wants to serve community better.
- Would like to give children the experience of art.
- Pleased to see so many educators at this meeting.
- Wants to find out from educators – What would you like to see us doing to reflect the core curriculum?
- Would like to see more arts being done in the schools. What do educators need from Market House Theatre?
- Works with conventions, tourism. Wants to attract visitors/shoppers to community. Arts are vital to that process.
- Interested in partnerships. Wants to offer a range of cultural programs (library).
- Mary Jackson-Haugen emphasized the ways the circuit rider can be of help to these organizations.

**Small Group Work:** As per instructions, facilitator asked people to select the KAC goal they wanted to work on, and that selection was the basis for 5 groups. Each group was given the tip sheet, and asked to appoint a scribe and a spokesperson. The outcome of each group is listed below.

**Goal #1: Education in the arts is provided.**

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, at the regional level, or at the state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal? What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region? What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. The arts should be incorporated across all disciplines in the curriculum.
2. Make sure students can really perform. Should not just address core content.
3. Need involvement of all students, not just those identified as having talent/skill.
4. There should be more venues for children's art around town.
5. Emphasis has been on sports. Need this kind of emphasis to be on the arts.

**Goal #2: There is efficient statewide delivery of arts programs and services.**

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, regional level, state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal? What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region? What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. Delivery of programs/services has been primarily through grants.
2. KAC Artist Roster is not up-to-date. Updated roster should be on Web site.
3. Could artists help update roster?
4. KAC could provide and fund statewide touring opportunities.
5. KET schedules should be based on all time zones.

6. West Ky is ignored. More emphasis on Appalachian heritage and Louisville/Lexington.

**Goal #3: Artists live and work in a supportive environment.**

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, regional level, state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal? What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region?

What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. Artists and community need to know what each other wants. Two-way communication.
2. There should be a directory of artists and organizations.
3. artists need to serve the community and vice-versa.
4. Artists can conduct studio tours to build interest in the arts.
5. An arts column in the local newspaper would be helpful.

**Goal #4: The role of arts in society is valued as basic to life.**

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, regional level, state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal? What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region? What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. Communication between arts organizations is important. Need to promote positive communication. Don't step on each other's toes.
2. Suggest a centralized source of information and input.
3. Need to find ways to provide information to people with no Internet access.
4. Should focus on youth.
5. Find ways to attract/reach young adults.
6. Provide opportunities for seniors' involvement. Must be accessible.
7. Find ways to secure government support.

**Goal #5: Public policy is favorable to the arts in Kentucky.**

What kinds of programs or activities at the local level, regional level, state level would contribute the most to making progress on this goal? What kinds of programs or activities within this goal would make the greatest difference in this community or region? What do people in this community or region have the most energy for working on?

1. Build support for the arts through positive, family-friendly activities.
2. Promote/educate community to a broader definition of the arts. If you sing in the choir at church, that is arts involvement.
3. Focus on existing energy and broaden appreciation for the arts. Organize festivals, after-dinner programs, etc.
4. Reach out to public officials and board members to ensure favorable public policy decisions.

**Whole Group Work: Using the worksheet provided, we went through the KAC goals and the KLTPRC top issues, answering the questions as thoroughly as possible within the time constraints. Responses are listed below.**

**Goal #1/Lifelong education in the arts. How does this goal relate to any of the four KLTPRC top issues? (safe/caring communities; responsibility for family success; accessible, quality health care; excellent system of lifelong learning) How can I or my organization contribute to progress on this goal?**

1. Teach younger people traditional skills; e.g., lace making.
2. Lifelong education is connected to safe and caring communities.
3. Learn to deal with other people/cultures/races through the arts. This leads to safe and caring communities.
4. Abilities/skills learned through the arts can be applied to other areas, disciplines.
5. Exercising your mind through the arts is important in terms of better health.
6. Involvement in the arts lends itself to health, caring communities.
7. Education never ends. We make progress toward this goal by offering arts activities to the community as a whole.
8. PCC needs to have a better idea of what the community wants and needs. They want to be a sounding board so they can meet community needs.
9. Organizations need to learn to market to all segments of the community. Need to dispel the “high-brow” image of the arts.
10. Strive to address and reach those who do not have a comfort zone that welcomes the arts.
11. KAC should have more statewide activities and help change attitudes toward the arts.
12. What message does it send when the state cuts arts funding?

**Goal #2/ Efficient statewide delivery of arts programs and services. How does this goal relate to any of the four KLTPRC top issues? (safe/caring communities; responsibility for family success; accessible, quality health care; excellent system of lifelong learning) How can I or my organization contribute to progress on this goal?**

1. Need to implement all ideas mentioned in #1 above.
2. How does KERA implement and encourage arts programs?
3. Need better communication. For instance, the Arts Start Program is important, but how does the average individual know its importance and what it does?
4. West Ky feels ignored by rest of the state. Programs should be offered statewide.
5. Need to encourage our constituents to get to know KAC staff and make sure KAC knows that is going on in regions.
6. Partner with other state agencies. Plug into areas like virtual high school. Partnerships are essential.
7. Take advantage of state forums that promote the regions of the state in other areas, such as tourism, transportation.
8. More arts opportunities for the region are emerging with the Four Rivers Center.

**Goal #3: Artists live and work in a supportive environment. How does this goal relate to any of the four KLTPRC top issues? (safe/caring communities; responsibility for family success; accessible, quality health care; excellent system of lifelong learning) How can I or my organization contribute to progress on this goal?**

1. Artist relocation. Let these artists know what is going on in other organizations in the community.

2. It's good to feel part of the community. Relocating artists were welcomed with open arms.
3. Mentoring program. Skills are dying. Artists can ensure continuation of traditional arts through mentoring.
4. Support is fostered through relationships. We need to develop them!
5. Arts are a great family-bonding opportunity.
6. Buy art! Particularly from local artists.
7. Suggested a Ky statewide arts festival.
8. Suggested that statewide exhibits be toured to schools.
9. Have a free day of art, a Presenters Network event.
10. Communication!! Great things are happening. How do we make sure people know about them?

**Goal #4: The role of the arts in society is valued as basic to life. How does this goal relate to any of the four KLTPRC top issues? (safe/caring communities; responsibility for family success; accessible, quality health care; excellent system of lifelong learning) How can I or my organization contribute to progress on this goal?**

1. Art enables youth to express themselves in safe, non-violent ways.
2. There should be a way to identify students with interest/skills in the arts early. Help them find a nurturing supportive environment and venue.
3. Communication between art teachers and other teachers is needed, so they can find ways to work together and reinforce learning. Removal of art opportunities should not be used as a punishment.
4. Mentoring is an activity that should take place in the arts.
5. Involvement in the arts has mental health benefits.
6. The art gifted program at the local level is on paper only. There are no funds available to implement it.
7. Need to provide programs aimed at appreciation of the arts; not just focus on performance. Not every is a performer.
8. The arts can promote people's respect for each other. Diversity is valued.
9. Suggested that we need to find ways to get students and schools to look at the arts with the same kind of spirit that sports gets. Use the arts to encourage enhancement of kids' personal skills.
10. Don't stress competitiveness in the arts. We don't want it to be exactly like sports.

**Goal #5: Public policy is favorable to the arts. How does this goal relate to any of the four KLTPRC top issues? (safe/caring communities; responsibility for family success; accessible, quality health care; excellent system of lifelong learning) How can I or my organization contribute to progress on this goal?**

1. The arts should not be dropped from the schools.
2. Need to get the word out to legislators. Make your feelings known. Write letters. Talk to lobbyists.
3. Invite legislators into schools to see arts activities.
4. Funding should be available to bring youth to local arts activities.

5. Artists should be on city council, run for public office.
6. Tie the arts to economic development to emphasize its importance.
7. The arts are always used to bring businesses into a community. Tie the arts to workforce development.
8. Go to your local representatives and city council members. Ask for what is needed for the arts. A local city council member attending this meeting has never been approached with any arts issue or request.

**Other Comments:**

1. How will we take these goals and make them a reality?
2. Make sure people know the arts are a viable job opportunity.
3. KAC, artists, arts organizations should be involved in school career days.
4. Paducah has great arts organizations and opportunities. All organizations here need to stay healthy, especially with the Four Rivers Center coming in to town. We all need to work together.
5. Make use of WKMS-FM and public radio.
6. There is a need for leadership at local/regional levels for some of these things to take place.

**Facilitator Comments:** There was good participation and great discussion in this session. The participants from the Artists' Relocation Program were very interesting, and the KAC might want to tap into this new and emerging community to find out what about Ky attracted them to relocate. They have a fresh view of the arts, and their perspective might be helpful as a new long-range plan is developed.

There was little or no discussion of regional cooperation in the arts, and most of the participants were from Paducah. Calloway and the far western counties were not represented. Princeton, Marion were not there, though they may be attending the Madisonville session. Also, some of the larger organizations were not represented; e.g., Symphony, Quilt Museum. There were a number of educators, which is terrific and a first. Now there needs to be some follow-up to bring the teachers together with the arts organizations to find out what educators need so the arts organizations can begin to address those needs.

Does the KAC plan to do any promotion of the concept of regional planning? This is a real area of opportunity for west Ky, but there is really no one who plays this role in the region.

*Constance Alexander*

**Report Submitted by Constance Alexander**

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